

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06910 111219Z

43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 MMS-04 INSE-00 SCA-01 DRC-01

RSC-01 /045 W

----- 102151

R 111120Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5519

UNCLAS BRASILIA 6910

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CPAS, BR

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - LITERACY
REQUIREMENT FOR CITIZENSHIP

TITLE X, CHAPTER I, ARTICLE 124 OF DEGREE LAW 941, DATED OCTOBER 13, 1969, "STATUTE ON FOREIGNERS", REQUIRES THAT APPLICANTS FOR NATURALIZATION MUST "READ AND WRITE THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE, CONSIDERING THE CONDITION OF THE PERSON BEING NATURALIZED". EXCEPTION IS THEN MADE FOR PORTUGUESE CITIZENS.

ARTICLE 133 SAYS "... THE PERSON NATURALIZING SHOULD:

I - DEMONSTRATE THAT HE KNOWS HOW TO READ AND WRITE THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE, ACCORDING TO HIS CONDITION, BY THE READING OF PASSAGES OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION" AGAIN, PORTUGUESE ARE EXCLUDED FROM THIS REQUIREMENTS.

ALSO EXCUSED FROM PRESENTING PROOF OF LITERACY ARE THOSE PERSONS WHO ARRIVED IN BRAZIL BEFORE THEIR FIFTH BIRTHDAY AND REQUEST NATURALIZATION WITHIN TWO YEARS OF REACHING THE AGE OF MAJORITY AND THOSE PERSONS WHO ARRIVED IN BRAZIL BEFORE REACHING THE AGE OF MAJORITY, WHO COMPLETE COURSE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LEARNING, AND WHO APPLY FOR NATURALIZATION UP TO ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATION. THE ABOVE PROVISIONS ARE CONFIRMED IN DEGREE 66-689, JUNE 11, 1970, REGULATIONS FOR THE STATUTE ON FOREIGNERS.

AS FAR AS OUR RESEARCH SHOWS, NO OTHER LAWS BEAR ON THIS ISSUE.

CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURALIZATION, CITIZENSHIP LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL06910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740253-0281
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740957/aaaabwdp.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - LITERACY REQUIREMENT FOR CITIZENSHIP
TAGS: SHUM, CPAS, PGOV, BR, IA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005